



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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May 20, 2008

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1297; State Telecommunications Program; Exemption

Dear President Bee,

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1297, a bill that would have made the Cotton Research and Protection Council the first state government organization legislatively exempt from participating in the statewide telecommunications program.

The statewide telecommunications program makes one agency, the Department of Administration ("ADOA"), responsible for purchasing and managing the telecommunications systems for all the agencies of state government. By coordinating this effort through ADOA, the state takes advantage of economies of scale and benefits from system-wide uniformity in its telecommunications system. The Cotton Research and Protection Council sought this legislative exemption because it believes it can purchase telecommunications services for \$8,000 less than its current annual payment to ADOA.


The benefits of a statewide telecommunications system, including the efficiency of technology service support, fungibility of hardware and connectivity within a system, outweigh the \$8,000 out-of-pocket cost savings cited. Once the legislature exempts the Cotton Research and Protection Council, other small agencies will try to follow suit. The loss to functionality and efficiency that would occur by supporting multiple, different systems throughout state government would be immense.

The Cotton Research and Protection Council's issue about cost of telecommunications services to the smallest organizations in government raises a more fundamental question: whether our smaller state organizations are appropriate candidates for consolidation, at least with regard to administrative functions. My office is exploring these options throughout state government.

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For these and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1297.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:LK

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Jake Flake

Passed the House May 13, 20 08

by the following vote: 34 Ayes,

22 Nays, 4 Not Voting

[Signature]
Speaker of the House

[Signature]
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate _____, 20 _____

by the following vote: _____ Ayes,

_____ Nays, _____ Not Voting

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill received by the Governor this

14th day of May, 20 08

at 11:08 o'clock a. M.

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this _____ day of _____

at VETO o'clock _____ M.

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill received by the Secretary of State

this 20 day of May, 20 08

at 4:23 o'clock p. M.

[Signature]
Secretary of State

ON RECONSIDERATION
S.B. 1297